

Chairman Horn:

Optimism and Preparedness for 2006

(Fifth District Supervisor and Chairman Bill Horn presented the 2006 State of the County Address at the California Arts Center in Escondido on February 7, 2006. Here are excerpts of that speech.)

The County of San Diego knows what it takes to win for the people we serve. It takes talent, discipline and practice.

For nine years in a row, your County government has one of the highest credit ratings in the nation. That is because of sound financial practices and the political will to carry them out.

Traffic is the number one frustration for people who live and work in our County.

The good news is North County Transit District buses are carrying more people and 6,000 passengers a day are riding on 24 Coaster trains.

We need to build more roads. This year I represent the County on the San

Diego Association of Governments or SANDAG. My goal is to make sure we come through on promises that were made when the TransNet sales tax extension was approved.

One of the most important roads in the unincorporated area is Highway 76. At this Board's request, SANDAG has agreed to make it a priority project in the TRANSNET measure.

In exchange for widening Highway 76, I said I would create a 1500 acre park. I envision hiking, biking and horse trails. The environmental agencies for the State and Federal governments like the idea. CALTRANS is on board—and so is SANDAG.

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ABOVE: Chairman Bill Horn delivering the 2006 State of the County address at the California Center for the Arts, Escondido.

BELOW: "Defying Gravity", a song from the Tony Award winning Broadway musical *Wicked*, was sung by the Valley Center High School Advanced Chorus under the direction of Laralee Beck.



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The County has put \$6.5 million toward this project. Last year, we purchased 116 acres from San Luis Rey Downs Enterprises. This year we will be purchasing more land along the River.

One of our partners in tackling issues like traffic is the City of San Diego. I'm happy to say Mayor Jerry Sanders is shaking things up!

He has my pledge that the County of San Diego will embrace the city in a spirit of cooperation.

I think our first opportunity to work together is to get the City's Homeland Security dollars back. The Federal government recently decided San Diego isn't a high risk area. That's absurd.

It's the 7th largest city in America, a third of the Pacific Fleet is homeported in San Diego, and we have the largest number of military personnel in the nation.

We must secure our border. The completion of the triple border fence is critical. We're working with the Department of Homeland Security to get them the land they need.



Photos by Melissa Jacobs / County of San Diego

Shooters at the border end up on our streets shooting kids. In 2004, the North County Gang Task Force arrested 408 gang members. 260 of them were illegal aliens. I support The Border Protection, Anti-terrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act. It will deny entrance to any alien who is a member of a criminal street gang and will immediately deport them. I plan to meet with Senator Dianne Feinstein while I am in Washington to urge her support for this proposal. What the federal government won't do is left to us. We have to pick up the bodies and the tab.

Our Sheriff, Bill Kolender and District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis have been tremendous in their resolve to run gangs out of our County or lock them up.

When people are arrested and brought to trial—they are convicted. Last year, the overall felony and misdemeanor conviction rate for the District Attorney's office was 92%! And the gang prosecution division had an 88% conviction rate.

Another key partner in this fight is the Faith-based community. Tonight, I'm pleased to announce a major step forward in the County's partnership with the Faith-based community.

We are partnering with the National Network of Youth



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ABOVE: Geoff Horn, Youth Pastor at Green Valley Church in Rancho Bernardo, gave the invocation before his father's speech.

BELOW: Former Padres Pitcher Randy Jones welcomed Supervisors Pam Slater-Price, Dianne Jacob, Greg Cox and Ron Roberts, before introducing Chairman Bill Horn.

Ministries. A grant from my Community Projects Fund will enable them to work hand-in-hand with existing community-based organizations such as the TenPoint Leadership Foundation, Gang Busters, Big Brothers - Big Sisters, and many more. The goal is to recruit 200 mentors in North County to help at-risk youth.



Now a word about a controversial stand this Board has taken when it comes to medical marijuana.

At the same time we are fighting violent gangs that are dealing drugs in our streets, the State has ordered us to issue identification cards that let people buy and use marijuana. That violates federal laws. The State is pushing the notion of I.D. cards. If they want to violate federal law, they should issue the cards and not force us to do it. This Board will not create a program that puts people in jail. Rather than waiting to be sued, the County of San Diego is suing the State.

We're working hard for you, but we've also seen disaster destroy what we have built. Nearly two-and-a-half years ago, our County was on fire. Lives were lost, homes were destroyed, and we all realized how vulnerable we are.

Supervisor Ron Roberts knew that before the fires started. His tenacity led this Board to lease a fire-fighting helicopter. With the help of the Viejas, Sycuan, and Barona Tribes we now own two helicopters that have responded to 222 incidents. We've helped the California Department of Forestry keep 95% of fires to less than 10 acres by dropping about 430,000 gallons of water!

But you can't win a war with air-power alone. We're also getting the job done on the ground.

Our County has committed more than \$5 million a year to keep fire stations open year-round. We're buying new equipment and training firefighters. We will complete a \$20 million upgrade to our Emergency Communications System this year.

There can be no higher priority than preparing for the next disaster. And it will come!

I believe we are much safer than we were two years ago. But in a disaster, no government can come to the immediate aid of every person.

My personal focus is to make sure you are prepared for our next disaster. We haven't done enough to help peo-

ple understand how to prepare. They need to be able to take care of themselves and their families for at least the first 72 hours of a major disaster.

I will be hosting a conference at the County Administration Center on March 15. We will have the Office of Emergency Services, the Red Cross, and Chambers of Commerce. We will invite representatives from the cities and the public for what I hope is an annual life-saving conference on emergency preparedness.

And finally, something that involves the very future of our nation. We must keep our military strong.

As a former combat Marine, I know how important it is to support our men and women in arms, and provide for the well-being of our veterans.

We appreciate all of you for helping on the home front.

Tonight, I offer a salute to our troops. Our servicemen and women are true American heroes. I have a special place in my heart for those fighting overseas. They are risking their lives in a war against an unseen enemy who thinks nothing of slaughtering the innocent.

I know what it's like to be shot at and to be separated from loved ones. I know, because 40 years ago, I was one of them.

Some people think that patriotism is corny. Not this Marine!

I am proud of our military and I love the United States. It's the greatest nation on the earth. And this County is the greatest County in the State.

I look forward to



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ABOVE: Mary Rath, wife of Horn policy advisor Phil Rath, sang the National Anthem.

BELOW: San Diego County Sheriff Bill Kolender and District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis gave a rousing thumbs up to Chairman Horn's commitment to the North County Gang Task Force. Seated behind them are Greg Smith, County Recorder, Dan McAllister, Tax Collector and Walt Ekard, Chief Administrative Officer.

serving you as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors and we'll get the job done in 2006.

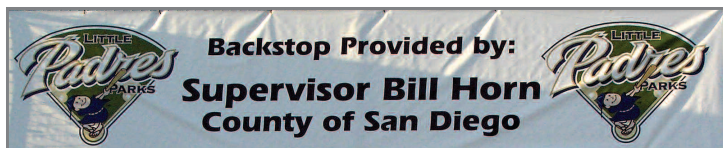
God bless you. Thank you and goodnight.

(For complete text, please go to www.sdcounty.ca.gov/cnty/bos/sup5)



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Field of Dreams-Come-True



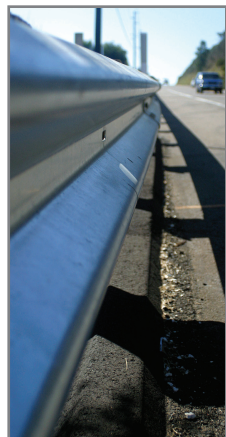
Chairman Horn helped celebrate the grand opening of a new Little Padres Park baseball field for the Vista Boys & Girls Club. The San Diego Padres had the lead role in the construction of the \$250,000 major league quality ball field and were supported by many local businesses, the City of Vista, private foundations and \$10,000 from Chairman Horn's Community Projects Fund, for the back stop. 500 kids will have regular access to the field. Vista is the 26th park to be renovated by the program, which has a goal of 60 in the region.



Moving ahead in the Fifth . . .

- New guard rails are now in place at various locations along Del Dios Highway
- Vegetative soil cover has been placed over the entire San Marcos Landfill
- The Rancho Santa Fe Roundabout Design footprint has been established for all three intersections
- The Department of Parks & Recreation is working with North County Fire Protection District to offer free Community Emergency Response Team Classes at the Fallbrook Community Center

Rendering of proposed roundabout at Paseo Delicias & Via De La Valle



A safer commute

New guardrails have recently been installed along Del Dios Highway near Lake Hodges.



"A Word From Chairman Bill Horn" Via E-mail Chairman Horn has an electronic newsletter to constituents. Doing this by E-mail is cost-effective, more in-depth and more immediate than our regular newsletter. We're still in touch by regular mail, however, if you're not receiving "A Word From Chairman Bill Horn" by E-mail and would like to be on our list, please let us know by E-mailing the Supervisor at bill.horn@sdcounty.ca.gov.

Chairman BILL HORN

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